



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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December 1, 2000

Ms. Karen Dinicola  
Citizens for a Healthy Bay  
917 Pacific Avenue Suite 406  
Tacoma, WA 98402

Dear Ms. Dinicola:

RE: Stay of Reserve Allocations for BODS and Ammonia

On May 17, 2000, the Washington Department of Ecology, the Puyallup Indian Nation, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (Mediation Sponsors) hosted a meeting of the Signatories to the 1998 "Agreement On The Allocations Of The Puyallup River Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Reserve Capacity Of Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BODS) and Ammonia" Memorandum of Understanding (the MOU). The MOU identified 1) how the BODS and Ammonia reserve capacities, as defined in the Washington Department of Ecology's 1994 Puyallup River TMDL, were apportioned, in reserve, to various stakeholders, and 2) the process by which these reserve capacities could be accessed.

One of the main purposes of the May 17, 2000, meeting was to discuss implementation of a monitoring program for dissolved oxygen as agreed to in the MOU. The monitoring program would assess spatial and temporal changes in water quality in the Lower Puyallup River, determine if designated uses were being supported by existing instream quality, and provide site specific water quality information in support of Ecology's water quality based permitting of dischargers. Data from this monitoring would establish baseline water quality information essential for implementing the provisions of the MOU.

Following the May 17, 2000, meeting, Ecology sent invoices to signatories for Puyallup TMDL monitoring in accordance with the MOU. Ecology and the Puyallup Tribe deployed Hydrolab continuous monitors at two sites in the Lower Puyallup River four times during August and September 2000. Resulting data from September indicated that water quality standards for dissolved oxygen were violated on several days. A summary of this data is enclosed, and a more comprehensive report will be prepared this winter. Ecology will invite the Puyallup MOU signatories and others interested in the watershed to a "State of the Waters" meeting in February or March, 2001, to discuss the data and monitoring plan.

Until new data shows that there is reserve capacity for BODS and ammonia in the Lower Puyallup River, Ecology and EPA cannot allow access to the reserve capacities identified in the


Karen Dinicola  
Page 2

MOU. Ecology and the Puyallup Tribe will be modifying the Lower Puyallup Quality Assurance Project Plan for summer, 2001, and will post it on Ecology's web (<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/eap.html>) next spring.

It should also be noted that state water quality standards for dissolved oxygen, as well as temperature and bacteria, will be changing in 2001. The new standards will be more protective in salmonid spawning streams such as the Puyallup River. They will be posted on Ecology's web site (<http://www.epy.wa.jzoy/programs/wq/wghome.html>) prior to public workshops. A workshop is tentatively scheduled in Bellevue on January 9, 2001; the confirmed schedule will be posted on the web site.

If you have any questions about the stay or the monitoring, please contact Jeannette Barreca, (360-407-6556 [jbar461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:jbar461@ecy.wa.gov)) or Darrel Anderson (360-407-6407 [dand461na.ecy.wa.gov](mailto:dand461na.ecy.wa.gov)).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Kelly Susewind", written in a cursive style.

Kelly Susewind, P.E.  
Southwest Region Manager  
Water Quality Program

KS:jr  
Enclosure